

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered By Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV. On 26th June 1998, in Washington, D. C. - America

I am Allah, the Most Knowledgeable.

This is that perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; a guidance for the righteous.

Who believe in the unseen and observe Prayer and spend out of what We have provided for them.

They would deceive Allah and those who believe, and they deceive none but themselves; only they perceive it not.

In their hearts was a disease, and Allah has increased their disease to them, and for them is an agonising torment, because they used to lie.

The Holy Quran. al-Baqarah [The Heifer]: 2 - 4, 10, 11.

ذلك [‘This is’] also points to the grandeur of *The Holy Quran* as well as to the grandeur of the Prophecies mentioned in the previous scriptures. This book is guidance for the righteous and the mark of the righteous is that they believe in the unseen. They also believe in Almighty God who is in the unseen. 2 things certainly result from this belief in the unseen firstly that the righteous establish Prayer and secondly that they spend in the cause of Allah. Thus when they observe Prayer the unseen God is present. In this way they also see the theophanies of the unseen God through spending in the cause of Allah.

Those who do not believe in the unseen decrease in their offerings. They think that Almighty God does not know about their offerings and financial contributions so in this way they indulge in deception so as to deceive Almighty God and the believers who are the organisation of the *Jamat*. Thus they are addressed in the verse ‘*They would deceive Allah and those who believe,*’ these verses are the topic of today’s sermon because the financial year of the *Jamat* is ending and the *Jamats* write to me to pray that all the shortfalls in the collection of the financial offerings may be alleviated.

There is a large number of such people in America who fall under these verses and I know for certain and can speak of them on oath that their income is far greater than the amount they present to the *Jamat*. As opposed to this I also know those who not only give according to their income but far in excess of it. So those who give less in comparison with their incomes if they contributed the proper amount then all of the expenses of the *Jamat* of America can be taken care of only from the prescribed part of the *Chanda Aam* [Obligatory Contribution].

It is in the *Hadith*:

Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet ﷺ said ‘Every night 2 angels come down from Heaven and one of them says ‘O Allah! Compensate every person who spends in Your Cause,’ and the other says ‘O Allah! Destroy every miser.’¹

¹ Bukhari, Muhammad bin Ismail. *Sahih Bukhari*.

This prayer does not apply to the common worldly [people] but to those who deem themselves to be Godly and are then stingy and tight-fisted. For it was their duty to spend in the cause of Almighty God.

There are other *Ahadith* which remind of spending in the cause of Allah. The viewpoint of the Companions of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) was completely different. They are ever ready to sacrifice their entire wealth at the feet of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him). But now the times are somewhat different in which people possess a lot of wealth but are poor in spirit.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) himself says about his dearest friend Hazrat Maulvi Hakeem Nooruddin (Allah be pleased with him) that 'Had I permitted it he is always ready to give all his belongings in the cause of God'. This also brings to the fore the part of the character of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (Allah be pleased with him) whereby it was his heart's desire to spend everything in the cause of God but the permission of the Imam of the time prevents it whose obedience and following caused him to suppress his desire. Hazrat Hakeem Maulvi Noorudin (Allah be pleased with him) wrote a letter to the Promised Messiah (peace be on him). He wrote to his master that:

May I be sacrificed in your way. Whatever I have is not mine, it is yours. Honoured leader and guide! I say this truly that if all my earnings are spent in the propagation of [the] faith, I would think the end of my life achieved.²

Some people also write to me to give all their possessions for the faith but I also never permit them for the reason that the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) grants me the right not to permit it.

Hazrat Munshi Zafar Ahmad (Allah be pleased with him) and Hazrat Munshi Arora Khan (Allah be pleased with him) offered incomparable sacrifice and were impassioned to do so and the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has directed in his writings that those stingy in offering financial sacrifices and those who never do be removed from the *Jamat*.

In *لَنْ تَنَالُوا حَتَّى الْبِرِّ تُنْفِقُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ* [‘Never does one attain to a high degree of piety unless one gives out of what one cherishes’]³ it is stated that you can never attain piety until you spend out of love. So one should remember to spend in the cause of Almighty God because one learns to spend properly out of love and the only malady to stinginess and miserliness is to be gripped in the love of Almighty God. It is important to love in order to spend. You spend on your children because you love them. You are not niggardly in it. This love is also achieved only through prayer. Thus the prayer of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is very beautiful indeed 'O Allah! I beg Thee Thy love and the love of those who love Thee'⁴

² Ahmad, Hazrat Mizra Ghulam. *Fat'ha Islam [The Victory of Islam]*. (Riyaz e Hind, 1891). *Ruhani Khazain: iii*. 35, 36. English: 1973, 1996. 22. Alternative Translation, 2000.

³ Never does one attain to a high degree of piety unless one gives out of what one cherishes and whatever you do give Allah knows about it very well.

The Holy Quran. Āl Imran [Family of Imran]: 93.

⁴ Abu Darda relates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said 'Of the supplications of David was 'O Allah! I beg Thee Thy love and the love of those who love Thee and such conduct as should lead me to Thy love, Allah! Make Thy love dearer to me than my soul and my family and dearer than cold water.'

Tirmidhi, Abu Isa Muhammad ibn Isa. *Jami' at-Tirmidhi*.

How can I convince you to act upon these things and spend your wealth in the cause of God as is its due and never to be dishonest or lacking in this in any way.

The Promised Messiah (peace be on him) states that *'If one cannot face a minor Nawab after having embezzled then how can one show their face to the chiefest of rulers?'* This sentence of the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) moves the heart. When I admonish repeatedly to spend in the cause of Almighty God I do so because there is a need to shake the conscience of America. It is my desire that I treat those about whom there is categorical knowledge that they do not contribute honestly as the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) has stated that we do not need even a single penny from them. I never even accept a gift from such people about whom I know it to be the case, there is no question of accepting any gift of any kind from them.

The *Jamat* in America should appoint Professional officials for this task who should analyse the income of such people and prepare a Report as to who gives what amount and then their contributions of the past 10 years should be returned. If then the *Jamat* in America fears that because of it they would lack the funds to fulfil their needs I guarantee that I would fulfil it. Until this is fully enacted I hope that those who have a conscience would from now on remove their weaknesses in this regard.